

ABSTRACT

[1060] A control channel in a communication system transmits messages in a one or multiple-slot format. To assure consistency of a message, a content quality indicator is included in the message. Because a terminal receiving the message does not know the number of slots comprising the message, the terminal performs blind format determination by testing hypothesis for all slot formats. Unfortunately, the content of certain control messages results in control messages that appear to be valid in a sense that, the computed CRC is equal to the interpreted CRC. Consequently, the mobile station declares a valid control message, and a false-alarm event occurs. Moreover, the same control messages always result in the same false-alarm events. To prevent such repetitive incorrect determination, the content of the message is scrambled by a time-dependent scrambling sequence before transmission. Re-generating the scrambling sequence, and performing inverse to the scrambling then unscrambles the received message.

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